

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 264

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to make traditional dining and an alternative, more affordable food and beverage service available to passengers on overnight routes of Amtrak, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2025

Mr. COHEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to make traditional dining and an alternative, more affordable food and beverage service available to passengers on overnight routes of Amtrak, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Train Establishment
5 of Appetizing Table Service Act” or the “Train EATS
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS ON**
2 **OVERNIGHT ROUTES OF AMTRAK.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 243 of title 49, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new section:

6 **“§ 24324. Food and beverage service requirements on**
7 **overnight routes of Amtrak.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—On each covered route, Amtrak
9 shall make available—

10 “(1) to the extent practicable, in accordance
11 with subsection (b), traditional dining; and

12 “(2) to all passengers an alternative food and
13 beverage service that is more affordable than tradi-
14 tional dining.

15 “(b) PRIORITY OF TRADITIONAL DINING CAPAC-
16 ITY.—On each covered route on which traditional dining
17 is available, Amtrak shall offer any traditional dining ca-
18 pacity not otherwise used by passengers in First Class or
19 Business Class to passengers traveling in Coach Class (or
20 other base fare class ticket) for a fee on a first-come, first-
21 serve basis.

22 “(c) TRADITIONAL DINING MEAL OPTIONS.—Am-
23 trak shall ensure that traditional dining on a covered route
24 includes—

25 “(1) a healthy meal option; and

1 “(2) upon pre-order from a passenger to whom
2 traditional dining is offered, meals that satisfy the
3 dietary restrictions of the passenger.

4 “(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Transpor-
5 tation shall issue such regulations as are necessary to
6 carry out this section.

7 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) COVERED ROUTE.—The term ‘covered
9 route’ means a rail passenger transportation route
10 operated by Amtrak that is scheduled to depart and
11 arrive on different dates.

12 “(2) HEALTHY MEAL OPTION.—The term
13 ‘healthy meal option’ means a meal the nutritional
14 contents of which are consistent with the Dietary
15 Guidelines for Americans established under section
16 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Re-
17 lated Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341).

18 “(3) TRADITIONAL DINING.—With respect to
19 rail passenger transportation, the term ‘traditional
20 dining’ means a food and beverage service—

21 “(A) for which a passenger is seated at a
22 table in a car designated solely for such food
23 and beverage service to order and eat a meal;
24 and

25 “(B) that is serviced by wait staff.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The analysis for
2 chapter 243 of title 49, United States Code, is amended
3 by adding at the end the following new item:

“24324. Food and beverage service requirements on overnight routes of Amtrak.”.

